

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20, 22-24, and 26-42 were previously pending. Claims 36 and 40 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-20, 22-24, 26-28, and 36-42 remain pending with claims 1, 22, 36, and 40 being independent.

Office Action

In the April 9, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Verney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 422,517). The Examiner also rejected claims 2-20, 22-24, 28, and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verney in view of Pan et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0158772); rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verney in view of Pan and further in view of Boenig (WO 98/09359); and rejected claims 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verney in view of Pan and further in view of Reijnen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,658,891).

Independent Claim 1

The Examiner asserts that Verney, in the *Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention* section, discloses the elements recited in claim 1. However, the Examiner identifies only a plurality of generators 10, 11 and a plurality of loads 15. The Examiner fails to identify a bus connecting the generators to the loads. This is because Verney does not disclose a power-carrying bus. From Verney's figure, the generators 10, 11 are connected only to an electrical load management center (ELMC) 20, which includes a plurality of solid state power controllers (SSPC) 23. The loads 15 are connected only to the SSPCs 23, that can be turned on and off to shed loads 15 when the temperature of the generators 10, 11 approaches a critical limit. Neither the ELMC 20 nor the SSPC 23 is a bus and Verney discloses no other elements that carry power from the generators to the loads. Therefore, Verney fails to disclose an element of claim 1: "a bus electrically connecting each of the generators with each of the loads, wherein the bus is rated

at less than the total power consumed but carries all of the total power consumed from the generators to the loads without overloading the bus.”

Verney also includes disclosure of a two-generator system, in column 1, lines 20-32 of the *Background of the Invention* section. A block schematic of the system, drawn from Verney’s disclosure, is shown in Figure 1 below. Each generator G1, G2 has associated with it a primary

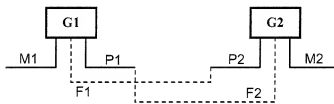


Figure 1. Two-generator system of Verney

bus P1, P2 and a monitor bus M1, M2. There is also a failure connection F1, F2. The primary buses P1, P2 power essential mission equipment, and the monitor buses M1, M2 power auxiliary and peripheral equipment. In the event of a generator failure, then the monitor bus of that generator is de-energized and the other generator supplies power to its own primary and monitor buses as well as the primary bus of the failed generator through one of the failure connections F1, F2. Thus, the system has two modes of operation: a normal mode and an emergency mode (during generator failure). In normal mode, there are four distinct buses that carry power from the generators to the loads – P1, M1, P2, M2. In emergency mode, there are three buses that carry power to the loads – one of the primary buses P1 or P2, one the monitor buses M1 or M2, and one of the failure connections to a primary bus of the failed generator F1/P2 or F2/P1. Generator G1 is not connected to the loads of bus M2 in either mode, and generator G2 is not connected to the loads of bus M1. Hence, Verney clearly fails to anticipate “a bus electrically connecting each of the generators with each of the loads” from claim 1. Furthermore, the total power is split among three or four buses (depending on the mode). As a result, Verney fails to disclose **a bus** that “carries **all** of the total power consumed from the generators to the loads without overloading the bus.” Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Verney.

Independent Claim 22

Claim 22 recites an electrical power system comprising “a bus electrically connecting each of the generators with each of the loads, wherein the bus is rated at less than the total power consumed but carries all of the total power consumed from the generators to the loads without overloading the bus.” As discussed above for claim 1, Verney also fails to disclose this element of claim 22.

Pan discloses an approach to implement cost-effective transmission asset maintenance strategies that may be applied to electric network utilities. The approach includes load shedding, network reconfiguration, and isolation that may occur during maintenance (¶¶ 0035-0036). If loads are shed or isolated, then Pan’s bus cannot carry “all of the total power consumed from the generators to the loads without overloading the bus.” Thus, neither Verney, nor Pan, nor the combination of the two render claim 22 obvious.

Independent Claim 36

Claim 36 recites “a plurality of compressors” and “a plurality of electric motors to drive the compressors.” These elements are not disclosed in Verney or Pan. Reijnen discloses an offshore plant for liquefying natural gas that may include compressors 65a, 65b, 66a, 66b, 67a, 67b, 110a, 110b and electric motors 83a, 83b, 113a, 113b. Claim 36 also recites “a bus rated at the voltage level to carry all of the total power consumed from the generators to the motors without overloading the bus.” Reijnen discloses electrical conduits 84a, 84b, 114a, 114b that connect to the electric motors. However, these conduits are not a bus “rated at the voltage level to carry all of the total power consumed from the generators to the motors,” and Reijnen discloses no other components operable to carry all of the total power consumed from the generators to the motors.

With regard to Verney and Pan, if the loads of Verney and Pan are considered to be motors, then, as discussed above, neither Verney nor Pan disclose a bus that is operable to “carry all of the total power consumed from the generators to the motors.” Therefore, neither Verney nor Pan nor Reijnen nor the combination of the three render claim 36 obvious.

Independent Claim 40

Step (d) of claim 40 has been amended to recite “selecting a bus to electrically connect each of the generators with each of the loads, wherein the bus is rated at less than the total power consumed but carries all of the total power consumed from the generators to the motors without overloading the bus.” As discussed above, Verney does not disclose or suggest a bus that electrically connects “each of the generators with each of the loads.” Furthermore, neither Verney nor Pan disclose or suggest that the bus “carries all of the total power consumed from the generators to the motors without overloading the bus.” As a result, claim 40 is not rendered obvious by Verney or Pan or the combination of the two.


Conclusion

In view of this response and the remarks herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in allowable condition and request a corresponding Notice of Allowance. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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